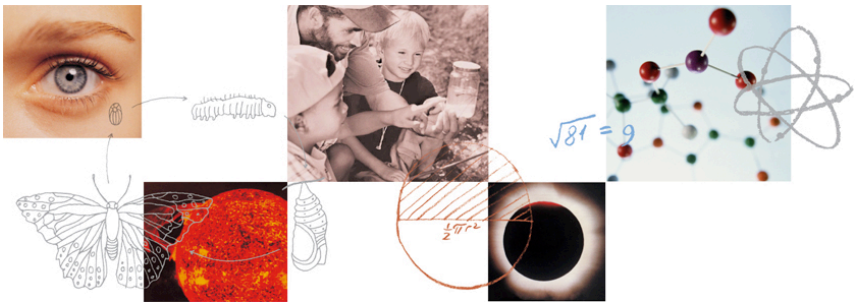

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

www.paemst.org

News Release

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Local Teacher Recognized for Outstanding Teaching Innovation

Mathematics Teacher from Marcos de Niza High School Selected as 2005 Presidential Award State Finalist

Awardees Announced in March 2006

Washington, DC – Did your teacher ever take you to a theme park or use a model of a rollercoaster to teach physics concepts in class, allow you to learn fractions and angles by building a gingerbread house, or measure force and motion on the basketball court? Highly qualified science and mathematics teachers bring these types of lessons to life for their students. One of these remarkable teachers, Ed Anderson, a Mathematics teacher at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe, is being rewarded for his success in using innovative methods and strategies in his classroom. Anderson has been named a state finalist for the 2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation's highest honor for K-12 teaching in these fields.

Established by Congress in 1983, and administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation, the Presidential Awards allow for each state to select up to three mathematics and three science teachers as state finalists. From this field of state finalists, a maximum of 108 Presidential Awardees are selected representing the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. Recipients of the 2005 Presidential Awards will be announced during a week of celebration events in March 2006 in Washington, DC.

When Anderson was told he was a state finalist, he said, "It is quite an honor to be a finalist. The encouragement and recognition from family and colleagues has been rewarding. I am hopeful that this process will continue to challenge me to keep my focus on what's important: the students and how to make them successful."

Anderson is one of the 253 state finalists for the prestigious Presidential Award. His teaching style is key to his success in the classroom. "I bring a high energy, love for learning and teaching attitude to the classroom. I expect students to be successful. When students are willing to give an effort, we all can learn and grow," said Anderson. "Occasional humor mixed in with a lot of encouragement goes a long way."

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"Presidential Awardees represent exceptional professional models of what we are looking for in science and mathematics teachers. They are highly qualified in their fields, deeply knowledgeable about their subjects, and equipped with the methods and strategies that improve teaching and learning in science and mathematics," said Celeste Pea, Ph.D., Program Director of Elementary, Secondary, and Informal Education programs at the National Science Foundation. "They strive to provide opportunities for their students to reach their potential in their respective schools and communities. Through this recognition, we hope to motivate similar creativity in other teachers, and to attract new recruits to the mathematics and science teaching profession."

"It has always been my desire to do more than just teach mathematical concepts. I want to make a positive impact on the lives of others. I strive to help students tackle difficult, complex problems. Through teaching, I can help students break down problems into smaller problems that either have been previously solved or are similar to concepts already mastered," said Anderson when asked about why he became a teacher.

The Presidential Awards are a great opportunity for the country to recognize the importance of all teachers. "Sometimes it is easy to get wrapped up in the day-to-day teaching responsibilities," added Anderson. "The Presidential Awards offer a great opportunity to pause and reflect on what is important and why you strive to be a great teacher."

The goal of the Presidential Awards is to identify and recognize highly qualified teachers. As part of the recognition process, Awardees will take part in a weeklong series of networking and professional development activities in Washington, DC. In addition, each Awardee will also receive $10,000 from the National Science Foundation. For more information about PAEMST, see forms and instructions available at: www.paemst.org.

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